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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

82-1836

SUBJECT: (Optional)

National Intelligence Topics (NIT's)

FROM:

IPC

EXTENSION

NO. DDI 5909/82

DATE 19 July 1982

25X1

25X1

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

ADDI

2.

3. DDI

21 JUL 1982

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DDI

has copy

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1/22/82 JUL 1982

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DDI

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Bob - when do we
have A/G-T
meeting on NIT's

ME

SECRET [REDACTED]

82-1836

25X1

DDI 5909/82
21 JUL 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Topics (NITs)

1. Action Requested: None; this memorandum provides information on changes in the NIT process. [REDACTED]

25X1

2. Background: In 1981, the Intelligence Community changed its method of responding to the NITs of Current Interest. Instead of merely listing the titles of pertinent publications produced during the year, the Community, as you suggested, prepared coordinated narrative answers to each question. With a few exceptions, feedback from policymakers indicated this change was a useful one in that it provided an excellent summary of Community judgments on key issues and insight into those gaps which remain in our collection and understanding on each topic. Responses were more critical on the Continuing Interest NITs. These comments suggest that the Continuing Interest NITs need to be reevaluated in terms of their content and utility. [REDACTED]

25X1

3. A further change in the NIT process is planned for this year. We have already alerted policymakers that the Intelligence Community will provide them, soon after the dissemination of the 1982 NITs, as complete answers as possible to each of the current topics. Those answers, if appropriate, will include a statement indicating where more analysis or collection is needed. (Those statements will also be disseminated to the Community.) Four to six months later, the Community will prepare an updated and, if possible, more complete set of answers for the policymakers. In addition to the narrative answers, this response will contain a listing of pertinent intelligence publications. This step would start the annual review, leading again to a restatement of the NITs for 1983. I believe this change in the NIT process will result in a more timely response. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 25X1

SECRET [REDACTED]

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4. As reflected in policymakers' comments on the 1981 NITs, and in the recently-completed consumer survey, we must be continuously alert to ways for making the process more flexible and responsive. I plan to have the Intelligence Producers Council examine the entire NIT process; assess its strengths and weaknesses; and identify, if possible, alternative measures for more effectively communicating policymaker needs to the intelligence producers and for improving producer responsiveness to those needs. At the upcoming IG(I) meeting, I will discuss the NIT process in general and solicit suggestions for ways to enhance the effectiveness and the utility of the NITs. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
/ Robert M. Gates

I also intend to pursue your idea of last year to put the responses into a computer and keep them updated for immediate availability. I'll let you what I discover.

RG.

SECRET [REDACTED]

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